

Claims

1. A trimmer comprising a cutting head having a guard housing a cutter means, a shaft for supporting the cutting head, roller means rotatably mounted with respect to the cutting head, and drive means for driving the cutter means, the roller means being
5 located outside the guard on the drive means side thereof, the cutting head being connected to the shaft by connection means permitting the cutting head to be positioned with its cutter means either substantially horizontal or substantially vertical, the roller means being sized to contact the ground when the cutter means is substantially vertical and to circumscribe the axis of the drive means, the arrangement being such that the
10 cutter means extends beyond the circumference of the roller means.
2. A trimmer as claimed in claim 1, wherein the connection means is constituted by a rotatable joint.
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3. A trimmer as claimed in claim 2, wherein the rotatable joint is constituted by a ball-and-socket joint.
4. A trimmer as claimed in claim 3, wherein the ball is fixed to the cutting head
20 by a neck portion, and the socket is defined by a generally spherical socket portion provided at one end of the shaft.
5. A trimmer as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 4, wherein the roller means is a wheel.
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6. A trimmer as claimed in claim 5, wherein the wheel is detachably mounted on the connection means.
7. A trimmer as claimed in claim 6 when appendant to claim 4, wherein the wheel
30 is detachably mounted on the neck portion.

8. A trimmer as claimed in any one of claims 5 to 7, wherein the wheel is formed with a break in its circumferential region, portions of said region adjacent to the break being formed with complementary, detachably-engagable connections.
- 5 9. A trimmer as claimed in claim 8, wherein the wheel has first and second generally semi-circular wheel members, first ends of which are pivotally connected together, the second ends of the wheel members being formed with complementary, detachably-engagable connectors.
- 10 10. A trimmer as claimed in either of claims 8 and 9 when appendant to claim 7, wherein the inner circumferential region of the wall and the neck portion are formed with complementary, interengagable location means.
- 15 11. A trimmer as claimed in claim 10, wherein the wheel is formed with an inwardly-projecting flange on its inner circumferential region, the flange being engagable within a complementary recess formed in the neck portion.
- 20 12. A trimmer as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 11, wherein the drive means comprises a motor and a drive shaft, the drive shaft passing through the roller means.
13. A trimmer as claimed in claim 12, wherein the cutter means is rotatable, and the drive engagement between the motor and the cutter means is a rotatable drive engagement.
- 25 14. A trimmer as claimed in claim 12 or claim 13, wherein the motor is an electric motor.
15. A trimmer as claimed in claim 14 when appendant to claim 4, wherein the motor is housed within the ball.
- 30 16. A trimmer as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 15, wherein a rotatable cutter line constitutes the cutter means.

17. A trimmer as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 16, wherein the axis of rotation of the roller means is substantially coincident with the axis of rotation of the cutter means.

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18. A trimmer as claimed in claim 17, wherein the radius of the roller means is of the order of, but slightly less than, the effective radius of the cutter means.